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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference TLB/DGR/P410666WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/04554	International filing date (day/month/year) 23.10.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 24.10.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC A61K9/50		
Applicant MICAP PLC. et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 8 sheets, including this cover sheet.
- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).
- These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the opinion
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☒ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 20.05.2004	Date of completion of this report. 03.12.2004
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Felder, C Telephone No. +49 89 2399-7852 

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/04554

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-32 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-10 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1-2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
☐ the claims, Nos.:
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

III. Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

1. The questions whether the claimed invention appears to be novel, to involve an inventive step (to be non-obvious), or to be industrially applicable have not been examined in respect of:

☐ the entire international application,

☒ claims Nos. 10

because:

☒ the said international application, or the said claims Nos. 10 relate to the following subject matter which does not require an international preliminary examination (specify):

see separate sheet

☐ the description, claims or drawings (*indicate particular elements below*) or said claims Nos. are so unclear that no meaningful opinion could be formed (*specify*):

☐ the claims, or said claims Nos. are so inadequately supported by the description that no meaningful opinion could be formed.

☐ no international search report has been established for the said claims Nos.

2. A meaningful international preliminary examination cannot be carried out due to the failure of the nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listing to comply with the standard provided for in Annex C of the Administrative Instructions:

☐ the written form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

☐ the computer readable form has not been furnished or does not comply with the Standard.

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-9
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-9
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-9
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

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see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB 03/04554

Re Item I

Basis of the opinion

The examination is being carried out on the **following application documents**:

Text for the Contracting States:

AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LI LT LU LV MC MK NL PL PT RO SE SI
SK TR

Description, pages:

1-32 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-10 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1-2 as originally filed

Re Item III

Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability

Claim 10 relate to subject-matter considered by this Authority to be covered by the provisions of Rule 67.1(iv) PCT. Consequently, no opinion will be formulated with respect to the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims (Article 34(4)(a)(I) PCT).

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
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Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: WO-A-9311869

D2: US-A-4001480

D3: WO-A-0069440

D4: Journal Of Microencapsulation, Taylor And Francis Inc. London,
Gb (01-11-1998), 15(6), 761-773

The present application describes an encapsulated product comprising a plurality of micro-capsules formed from a plurality of micro-organisms and having a lipophilic active encapsulated and passively retained within said micro-capsules, said lipophilic active not being a natural constituent of said micro-organisms, said micro-capsules having, a) an at least substantially intact cell wall, and b) an intact cell membrane, wherein said micro-capsules are formulated to target delivery of said micro-capsules and said lipophilic active to a desired at least one mucous membrane.

1. Novelty

Document **D1** discloses a process for encapsulating a material in which micro-organism cells are contacted with said material, which material is in liquid form, whereby the material is absorbed through the cell wall and cell membrane and retained within the cell passively, characterized in that the micro-organism cells are also treated with a peroxygen bleach. Therefore, present claims 1-9 seem to be not novel over the prior art **D1**.

Document **D2** discloses substances such as dyes, drugs (e.g. acetylsalicylic acid), flavours, aromas, vitamins and the like are provided as encapsulated within cells of micro-organisms, such as yeast. Said substance is passed

through the cell wall of said micro-organism and retained within said micro-organism passively. Therefore, present claims 1-9 seem to be not novel over the prior art **D2**.

Document **D3** discloses a delivery system for nicotine comprising nicotine encapsulated in a micro-capsule system which releases the encapsulated nicotine on contact with a nicotine solvent, such as buccal membrane. Said micro-capsule system comprises yeast cells. Therefore, present claims 1-9 seem to be not novel over the prior art **D3**.

Document **D4** discloses method for encapsulating high concentrations of essential oils into baker's yeast. The process involves mixing an aqueous suspension of yeast and an essential oil, which allows the oil to pass freely through the cell wall and membrane and remain passively within the cell. Therefore, present claims 1-9 seem to be not novel over the prior art **D4**.

2. Inventive step

Even if, the applicant could argue that in the prior art **D1-D4** it is not explicitly mentioned that said micro-organisms are further "formulated" such as further encapsulated, **D1-D4** deals with further processing of said micro-organisms. Therefore, a person skilled in the art, would formulate products described in the present application starting from any of documents **D1-D4**. Therefore, present claims 1-9 seem to not involve an inventive step in the light of the prior art **D1-D4**.

3. Industrial applicability

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For the assessment of the present claim 10 on the question whether they are industrially applicable, no unified criteria exist in the PCT Contracting States. The patentability can also be dependent upon the formulation of the claims. The EPO, for example, does not recognize as industrially applicable the subject-matter of claims to the use of a compound in medical treatment, but may allow, however, claims to a known compound for first use in medical treatment and the use of such a compound for the manufacture of a medicament for a new medical treatment.

Claims 1-9 seem to be industrially applicable.